

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no ☒

Property Name: Trinity United Methodist Church Inventory Number: WO-568
Address: 8339 Newark Road Historic district: yes ☒ no
City: Newark Zip Code: 21841 County: Worcester
USGS Quadrangle(s): Ninepin Branch
Property Owner: Trinity United Methodist Church Tax Account ID Number: 002709
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 151 Tax Map Number: 40
Project: Historic Structures Survey along US-113 Agency: Maryland SHA
Agency Prepared By: Hardlines Design Company
Preparer's Name: Roy Hampton Date Prepared: 9/27/2007
Documentation is presented in: Compliance Report and Historic Context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The building description and significance statement will be found in the attached MIHP form.

NRHP Recommendation: Not eligible

Criterion A: The church is not associated with any significant historical events or trends other than Methodist religious practice in twentieth century Newark and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B: The building is not associated with persons important in history, and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C: The building is a fairly typical small-scale Gothic Revival wood-frame Worcester County church, and there are several similar churches in the surrounding communities that are equally good or better examples of this style. The building's exterior integrity has also been compromised by the installation of aluminum siding and trim. The building does not have sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, or feeling and and it lacks historical and architectural significance. It is recommended not eligible under Criterion C.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jim [Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/5/08

Date

6/9/08

Date

Criterion D: The building appears to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

Name of Property: Trinity United Methodist Church

MIHP Number: WO-568

Location: 8339 Newark Road

Town / Vicinity: Newark

Date of Construction: 1911

Access: ☐ Public ☒ Private

The church is a Gothic Revival wood frame building with a gabled nave and transept. The building features pointed arch windows with simple leaded glass, and a small tower with open belfry and a squat pyramidal spire. All trim is covered in aluminum and the wall cladding is wide-lap aluminum siding. The foundation is masonry, and appears to be textured concrete block or possibly cast stone.

Constructed in 1911, the building has minor religious significance as one of only two churches still in operation in Newark. The building is also marginally significant in terms of architecture due to its early-twentieth century design. The church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP. Under Criterion A the church is not associated with any significant historical events or trends other than Methodist religious practice in twentieth century Newark. Under Criterion B the building is not associated with persons important in history. Under Criterion C the building is a fairly typical small-scale Gothic Revival wood-frame Worcester County church, and there are several similar churches in the surrounding communities that are equally good or better examples of this style. The building's exterior material integrity has also been compromised by the installation of aluminum siding and trim. Under Criterion D the building appears to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information.

The Trinity congregation is one of the area's oldest, founded in 1835. The church was originally located at Basket Switch, at a location that is still marked by the Old Trinity Cemetery. The current church building in Newark dates to 1911, according to Maryland real property database records, and this date appears consistent with the style and materials of the building. The Worcester County preservation plan lists eighteen churches dating from the 1900–1930 period, including ten wood frame examples.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-568

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Trinity United Methodist Church

other

2. Location

street and number 8339 Newark Rd. not for publication

city, town Newark vicinity

county Worcester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trinity United Methodist Church

street and number PO Box 36 telephone

city, town Newark state MD zip code 21841

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber folio

city, town Snow Hill tax map 40 tax parcel 151 tax ID number 002709

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District

Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Recorded by HABS/HAER

Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

X Other: Compliance Report and Historic context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
district	public	agriculture	Contributing
X building(s)	X private	landscape	Noncontributing
structure	both	commerce/trade	1 buildings
site		recreation/culture	0 sites
object		defense	0 structures
		domestic	0 objects
		education	1 Total
		funerary	
		government	
		health care	
		industry	
		religion	
		social	
		transportation	
		work in progress	
		unknown	
		vacant/not in use	
		other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. WO-568

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Trinity United Methodist Church is located in the town of Newark on the north side of Newark Road. The building sits in the middle of a small lot, with a gravel drive leading to a parking lot on the west side of the church. The church's modern graveyard is located north and east of the church building. Nearby are a collection of single-family houses as well as a fire station and park. State of Maryland real estate records indicate that the current church building was constructed in 1911.

Trinity United Methodist Church is a wood frame building with a gabled nave and a gabled transept constructed in the Gothic Revival style. The Gothic Revival style first appeared in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. The style became extremely popular and was used in a number of building types, but was extremely popular in churches. Characteristics common to the Gothic Revival style which are seen in Trinity Church include pointed arch windows and openings and stained glass.

Trinity Church rests on a masonry foundation that appears to be textured concrete block or possibly cast stone. The building has a moderately pitched, cross-gable roof clad in modern asphalt shingles in a dark gray color. The building was re-clad in white wide lap aluminum siding in the 1950s or 1960s. The aluminum siding is probably covering original horizontal wood siding. The building's original wood trim is also covered in aluminum. A small square tower with a pointed arch belfry opening, wood railing, and a squat pyramidal spire topped with a cross is located at the southeast corner of the building above the main entrance. The tower has a stepped back appearance so that the bottom of the tower is wider than the top. The building features narrow lancet windows with stained glass as well as larger windows composed of three lancet windows next to one another creating a prominent focal point. The main entrance to the church is located in the belfry and is accessed by a set of five brick steps with a metal railing that leads to a small brick landing in front of the front door. The main entrance is composed of a set of double doors. These wood doors have fourteen-panels each and appear to be original to the church. Modern, white metal storm doors have been placed in front of the wood double doors.

A modern front gabled brick parish hall is located northwest of the church. The parish hall features eight-over-eight windows, cornice returns, multi-panel double doors as well as a classical entrance surround. Both the church and the parish hall are surrounded by a few decorative foundation plants and a few trees are located near the church entrance. The church sits at a higher grade than the road and a short brick and stone retaining wall separates the church grounds from Newark Road.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WO-568

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Construction dates 1911

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary of Significance

Constructed in 1911, the building has minor religious significance as one of only two churches still in operation in Newark. The building is also marginally significant in terms of architecture due to its early-twentieth century design.

However, in terms of National Register of Historic Places eligibility the building lacks the significance and integrity necessary for inclusion. The building has lost integrity of materials, workmanship, and feeling. Under Criterion A the church is not associated with any significant historical events or trends other than Methodist religious practice in twentieth century Newark. Under Criterion B the building is not associated with persons important in history. Under Criterion C the building is a fairly typical small-scale Gothic Revival wood-frame Worcester County church, and there are several similar churches in the surrounding communities that are equally good or better examples of this style. The building's exterior material integrity has also been compromised by the installation of aluminum siding and trim. Under Criterion D the building appears to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information.

Historic Context

Newark

Newark began as a cluster of development at the crossing of two roads, Newark Road, which once connected the town to Snow Hill and Berlin, and a second road that is now known on the south side of Newark Road as Langmaid Road, and on the north side as Patey Woods Road. The beginnings of a village at the intersection can be traced to the late eighteenth century, with Langmaid Road providing access to commercial landings on Chincoteague Bay. In 1793, the site was part of a land tract known as Yorkshire.¹

¹ Paul B. Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*, (Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992), 298.

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Name Trinity United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

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It is thought that by 1800, the intersection Newark Road and Langmaid Road probably contained a meeting house, a few dwellings, a blacksmith shop, and a tavern.² The earliest map found that names the town is an 1839 anonymous map of Maryland, which labels the settlement as "Newark." The Newark name may have originated from an early name for the town's Methodist Episcopal Church that was named New Ark of the Covenant Church.³ Another account states that resident A.P. Bowen claimed, in the early twentieth century, that the name had come from a large wood frame building constructed at the town center that was nicknamed "the new ark" because of its resemblance to the biblical Noah's ark.⁴

On an 1877 Lake Griffing atlas, Newark contained one hotel, three retail stores, and three buildings marked G.S. Richardson and Company. Single family residences extended southwest on Newark Road, to the tracks of the Breakwater, Frankford and Worcester Railroad. On Patey Woods Road, single-family house development also extends up to the railroad tracks. The town is shown with about 20 houses, the one-room Schoolhouse No. 3 on Newark Road, and a Methodist Episcopal church. A railroad depot is shown, close to the location of the current 1910-1911 Queponco Station, and a building labeled S.S. Mill was located along the tracks south of the depot building.

Currently, the center of the town features few pre-1900 buildings. This is due to a severe fire in 1905 that destroyed the town's millinery shop, Odd Fellows' Hall, and several houses.⁵ In 1918, the Home Bank of Newark was organized, and operated out of a one-room wood frame building, and in 1919, a brick building replaced the previous frame building.⁶ Industrial development in twentieth century Newark remained very limited in comparison to development in the Worcester County communities of Snow Hill, Pocomoke City, and Berlin.

Most of the existing single-family houses in Newark today were built from about 1900-1930, according to Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation records.⁷ Construction in the town slowed during the 1930s depression and World War II.⁸ In the post-World War II economic expansion of the 1950s and 1960s, several Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch style houses were built on vacant lots in the developed section of Newark, or on the town's outer fringes.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Reginald Truitt and Millard Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia* (Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977), 96.

⁵ Ibid, 96.

⁶ Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*, (Worcester County Board of Education: 1956), 26-27.

⁷ Truitt and Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*, 96.

⁸ Ibid, 339.

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In 1956, work began on a bypass road that took US 113 around the south side of Newark, and routed highway traffic away from Newark's central intersection. Today, Newark is mostly residential, with the post office and Mercantile Peninsula Bank buildings being the main non-residential buildings at the town center. Newark also features an RV sales and repair business and a lumber firm, located near the railroad tracks on Patey Woods Road.

Trinity United Methodist Church: 8339 Newark Road

Maryland was originally founded in 1632 by Lord Baltimore as a safe haven for Catholics, but in 1649, shortly after its founding, the Maryland Toleration Act was issued which allowed freedom of worship for all Christians in Maryland.⁹ This religious toleration resulted in a variety of people with different religious backgrounds settling in Maryland. One of the religions that took a foothold in Maryland was Methodism. Methodism began in 1729 by a group of University of Oxford students. The movement was brought to the United States by English and Irish emigrants, and the earliest societies were formed in 1766 in New York City, Philadelphia and Pipe Creek, Maryland. The American Methodist church was first established in 1771, and later was formally organized in 1784 at a Baltimore, Maryland conference.¹⁰

Founded in 1835, the Trinity Methodist Church congregation is one of the oldest in the area. However, the current church building located in Newark was not the congregation's first church building. The original Trinity church was located in present day Basket Switch a short distance southwest of Newark. The first Trinity Church appears on an 1866 map of the area. Most of the churches labeled on this Worcester County map are Methodist churches suggesting Methodism was the predominant religion in the area at the time. The church continues to appear on an 1877 atlas in Basket Switch. In 1911, the current Trinity Church in Newark was constructed on the west side of town along Newark Road. Today the congregation is currently managed along with the nearby Bowen United Methodist Church, under a single pastor. It is not known if the original church in Basket Switch was destroyed by fire or if it was simply abandoned in favor of the Newark location. Today there are no remnants of the church building in Basket Switch. Old Trinity Cemetery remains at the location and a depression in the ground may indicate the previous site of the church.

The architectural style and form of the current 1911 Trinity United Methodist Church appears to have been typical of church architecture in Worcester County in the early twentieth century. Other cross-gable wood frame

⁹ Wikipedia, "History of Maryland." http://wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Maryland#Early_European_exploration (accessed June 28, 2007).

¹⁰ John H. Ness, "History of Methodism", http://www.sppauljax.org/history_of_methodism.htm (accessed June 28, 2007).

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churches with entrance belfries appear in Showell, Germantown, Campbelltown, Pocomoke City, and Snow Hill.¹¹ Given the large number of these churches still in existence Trinity United Methodist Church is a common church type and there are other examples with better integrity in the surrounding area.

¹¹ Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side*, 322, 324, 375, and 420.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WO-568

- Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*. 1956, on file at Worcester County Room, Snow Hill Public Library.
- Lewis, J. Frank. *The Maryland Directory*. Baltimore: J. Frank Lewis and Company, 1878.
- Ness, John H. "History of Methodism." http://www.sppauljax.org/history_of_methodism.htm. (Accessed June 28, 2007).
- Touart, Paul B. *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*. Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1 acre
Quadrangle name Ninepin Branch

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Trinity United Methodist Church is bounded by parcel 151, map 40 of Worcester County. The current boundary and the historical boundary for the property are identical as the property boundaries for the church have not changed. The boundary is large enough to encompass the entire church building and corresponds to the historical boundary of the property. See attached parcel map.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Roy Hampton, Senior Architectural Historian and Heather Kenney, Architectural Historian		
organization	Hardlines Design Company	date	06/08/2007
street & number	4608 Indianola Ave.	telephone	614-784-8733
city or town	Columbus	state	OH

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

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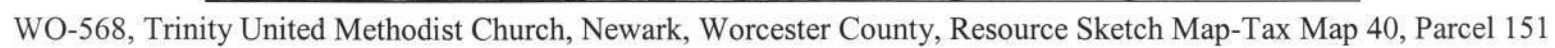
Name Trinity United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

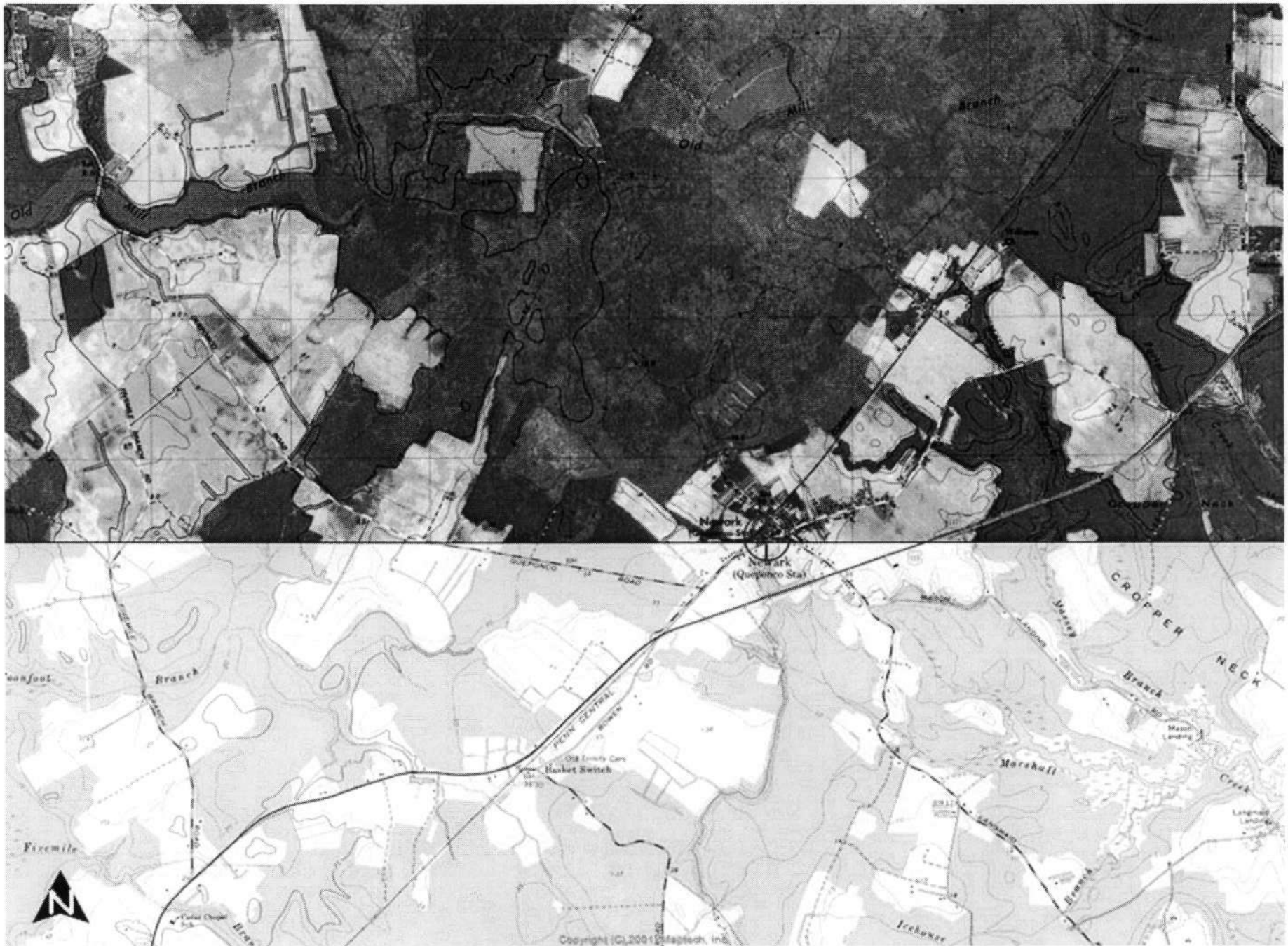
Number 9 Page 1

Truitt, Reginald and Millard Les Callette. *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*. Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977.

Wikipedia. "History of Maryland."

http://wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Maryland#Early_European_exploration. (Accessed June 28, 2007).





WO-568 Trinity United Methodist Church, Newark, Worcester County, Ninepin Branch Quad



Inventory No. WO-568

Trinity United Methodist Church

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Henney

May 29, 2007

MO SHPO

Southeast corner of building looking northwest.

#1 of 2



Inventory No. 568^{W0-}

Trinity United Methodist Church

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Kenney

May 29, 2007

MD SHPO

Southwest corner of building looking northeast.

#2 of 2